

# The Flyleaf

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RICE UNIVERSITY  
FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

T H E F R I E N D S O F  
F O N D R E N L I B R A R Y

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

T H E F L Y L E A F

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

Editor, Elizabeth Dabney; Editorial Committee, Samuel Carrington, Margaret Clegg, Ferne Hyman, Tom Phillips, Nancy Rupp.

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Cover: Medallion from the facade of Fondren Library  
Photograph by Elizabeth Dabney

## A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends,

During this academic year, the Friends have sponsored many programs and projects. The Author Reception, co-sponsored with the Alumni Association and honoring Rice authors, was a huge success. We wish to thank those who sent information for the bibliography, those who donated books to the Fondren Library, and especially the speakers - Marie Phelps McAshan, Blair Justice, and H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr. - for helping to make this program a success. The speakers gave us a humorous insight into - the joys of publishing and personal remembrances of Houston. It was an enjoyable evening with much congeniality and an opportunity to purchase books. For your interest the bibliography of Rice authors is published in this issue.

If you have visited the Library recently you will know that construction of the Martha W. and H. Malcolm Lovett Lounge is well underway. The dedication ceremony will occur during our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 1. We hope that you will turn out to see what your efforts have accomplished as well as to honor Martha and Malcolm Lovett. This area will provide a pleasing place for study and the holding of receptions.

The remainder of the Library renovation project will be completed around September 1. Our patrons will find that the pain of renovation will be worth the joy of a "user friendly", physically comfortable facility. The new circulation, periodicals, and reserve room will be in the south area of the library with attractive reading and study areas. Patrons will be glad to learn that when the renovation project is completed more elevators will be available for public use.

The tattle-taping of the collection is progressing nicely. The volunteers, the Fondren Strippers as they are called, are enthusiastic and are becoming experts. To date, over 30,000 volumes have been handled. This is a very important and extensive project which involves the security of the collection. If you find that you have some free time available and are able to assist in this program, please call the office at 527-4022.

The Eighth Annual Fondren Saturday Night was a success. Many thanks for your efforts and those of the volunteers who worked on the event.

Your Program Chairman, Mary Lou Margrave, is in the process of planning next year's events. Our past programs have been extremely varied as they should be since our membership is diverse. We have had tours of the Fondren Library and of the History of Printing Museum, sponsored

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the last game of the College Bowl, cultural events such as the annual Schubertiad as well as the annual Student Art Preview Show, receptions honoring a member or members and Rice authors, and, perhaps the best of all, the Fondren Saturday Night event. The lectures have included talks on lasers, the quality of Houston's water, celebrating the Constitution's bi-centennial, Thomas Moore's Irish melodies and many others. Your input is important and the Program Chairman would appreciate knowing what you would like to have for your programs. You may send the chairman of your suggestions to the Friends' office, Fondren Library, Rice University, P. O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892, or telephoning the office.

Sincerely yours,  
Betty D. Charles  
Executive Director

## FROM "ARCHBISHOP MARSH AND HIS LIBRARY"

Muriel McCarthy

*John Heard, a former member of our Board of Directors and a Director of the American Irish Foundation, gained permission for us to publish "Archbishop Marsh and His Library" by Muriel McCarthy which appeared in the Dublin Historical Record, Vol. XXXIX, No. 1 December 1975, pp. 2-23. Excerpts from the first part of his article appeared in the Fall, 1986 issue of The Flyleaf which recounted how Marsh's Library was established. The library was the first public library in Ireland, opened in 1707, and is named after Archbishop Narcissus Marsh who was Provost of Trinity College in Dublin.*

*In this part, Mrs. McCarthy discusses the Librarians of Marsh's Library.*

*Mrs. McCarthy is curator of the library. Her book, All Graduates & Gentlemen: Marsh's Library, is found in the Fondren Library.*

Dr. Elias Bouhereau was appointed the Librarian and it is interesting to record how his fine Library managed to come to Ireland. As a Huguenot refugee he was not allowed to take anything out of France, but he was determined nevertheless to take his Library with him. He went to Paris to see the British Ambassador and arranged with him for the pretended purchase of his books. In this manner they were sent to England. Otherwise they would have been burnt as heretical: and indeed Bouhereau, after his escape, was hanged in effigy.<sup>38</sup>

Dr. Bouhereau continued until his death in 1719 as Librarian with his son. Then Robert Dougatt, Archbishop William King's nephew, was made Keeper.<sup>39</sup>

The Library seems to have continued for many years in a fairly placid way until 1738, when John Wynne the Keeper reported that 'a great number of books were very lately stolen out of the Library and many other books were abused and rendered imperfect by having whole maps, tracts, pictures torn out of them'. The Governors ordered 'that should any person be detected to have stolen, defaced or torn any book belonging to the library he shall be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the Law without any expectation of pardon'. Unfortunately the complaints about books being stolen continued, and eventually in 1750 the Governors ordered that 'an honest porter be appointed to watch and search every person leaving the library'.

In 1762 Thomas Cobbe was appointed Librarian and fortunately he only stayed four years. I say 'fortunately' because his first suggestion to the Governors at the Annual



Visitation was that the chains which were at one time on the books should be sold. This was agreed. The second suggestion, the following year, was that the seats in the Stillingfleet Gallery be sold as they only served to collect dust. This was also agreed to.

A Librarian who was specially mentioned by William Monck Mason (1775-1859) in his 'History of St. Patrick's Dublin 1820 as being outstanding was William Blachford. . . .

William Blachford was succeeded by William Cradock in 1773. Thus began the Cradock's connection with Marsh's Library for almost one hundred years. The most noticeable thing about this period in the Library is the non-attendance of the Governors at the Annual Visitation. Frequently one finds the entry 'No business done as a sufficient number of Governors was not present'. Nevertheless some interesting Governors did appear. Lord Clare and Lord Norbury for example. On the other hand there were some fascinating readers. Tom Moore was one.<sup>41</sup> He used (to) be locked into the Library since he wished to work longer than the opening hours permitted. William Carleton<sup>42</sup>

specifically mentions his visits to Marsh's in his autobiography. He also tells us that 'Charles Robert Maturin had not only been a reader (in Marsh's) but wrote the greater portion of several of his novels on a small plain deal desk which he moved from place to place according as it suited his privacy or convenience'. Later visitors included Thomas Davis and also Emily Lawless, all of whose papers are in Marsh's.

The Cradock family continued as Keepers in Marsh's in spite of the fierce criticism of William Monck Mason in his 'History of St. Patrick's', a book incidentally which they refused to allow into the Library.

The first thief was caught in 1828. He was William Richard Underwood and appears to have been a particularly cheeky thief. He actually donated a book to Marsh's and it is quite possible that it was a book which he had earlier stolen from the Library.

In 1833 one of the most disastrous events in the history of Marsh's took place – the sale of the so called duplicates.<sup>43</sup> Books were sold from all the Collections, and although they might have appeared to be duplicates, in many cases they were not duplicates at all. It is a sorry story.

In 1841 Thomas Russell William Cradock was appointed Keeper and Dr. Robert Travers was appointed Assistant Librarian. Travers was to become one of the most devoted and scholarly librarians in the whole history of the Library. His exquisite handwriting appears in the Visitation Book from the time of his appointment in 1841 until his death.

In 1849 the Select Committee on public Libraries<sup>44</sup> which had been established by the House of Commons began its hearings. Edward Edwards, assistant in the Printed Books Department in the British Museum, gave evidence on Marsh's Library. It was quite astonishing. He said (that) Marsh's had been mismanaged and that 1,200 volumes were missing. The books were unstamped and readers were allowed to take them from the shelves themselves. But the most horrifying evidence which he gave was that a manufacturing druggist's laboratory was beside the Library and provided an appalling fire hazard. Mr. E.R.P. Colles of the Royal Dublin Society did provide some light relief however when he gave evidence that one of the Librarians kept a piano in the Library.

Four years later the Governors requested the Government to repair and insulate the Library. The reply in 1856 was a disastrous suggestion that the books be removed to the New Gallery of Painting, Sculpture and the Fine Arts. The suggestion, however, was accepted by Marsh's Gover-

nors and a special subcommittee was appointed to confer with the Governors of the New Gallery. Only one person was in disagreement with the Governors. Robert Travers, the Assistant Librarian, was outraged. But it seemed a foregone conclusion, and merely waited on the completion of the New Gallery to be implemented. It was fortunate that at this time Benjamin Lee Guinness was restoring St. Patrick's Cathedral which meant making a new entry to Marsh's and it seems that Travers was influential in getting Guinness to suggest help with the repairs of the Library as well. The Governors agreed to the suggestion for the new road but the offer to repair and aid the Library was 'reserved for future consideration'. This was quite an extraordinary decision. From Travers' letters<sup>45</sup> it would appear that there was some kind of conspiracy by, as he described it, 'underlings of the Government' to get rid of Marsh's. But fortunately it did not succeed. There was a change of Government in Ireland and for this and other reasons new Governors came to Marsh's, who very quickly accepted Guinness's generous offer, and so Marsh's was saved. Marsh's owes its existence, therefore, to the generosity of Benjamin Lee Guinness.

But Travers' troubles were not over. The Rev. Thomas Russell William Cradock must have been one of the most extraordinarily difficult and dangerous Librarians Marsh's has ever had. His ignorance was appalling. He made no protest at the proposed removal of the books. In fact he had deluded himself that he would get a house in Merrion Square as a compensation. It was clear to Travers from Cradock's replies to visitors that he had never heard of Evelyn's or Pepys Diaries, and beautiful manuscripts he 'used hand out to every idle lounger that came into the Library'. On another occasion when Travers came into the Library after a particularly heavy shower, he noticed water streaming into a crock which Cradock had placed under it. Travers knew this had happened before and asked Cradock 'why he had not had it repaired'. Cradock looked at Travers and said 'sure it stopped'. On another occasion when Cradock was on holidays, Travers decided to weed and clean the garden which had been neglected for thirty years and was apparently in a disgraceful condition. Travers not only cleaned up the garden but even managed to plant some flowers. When Cradock returned and saw what was done he was furious and borrowed a goat which he let loose in the garden. When Travers protested Cradock said: 'I hate a garden. I declare to God I hate the very sight of a garden'. Cradock also said when discussing some literary event: 'What a foolish thing it is to be reading papers to

those societies – I have the greatest contempt for people that read such papers or listen to them'. Most hilarious of all probably was Cradock's attempt to get married. He told Travers his intended bride was a Catholic and that her family objected. He also said that there was a difference of rank as she was the daughter of a man in business. Travers discovered that she was the daughter of a labourer or whitewasher, and that she did not even know the alphabet, and that Cradock had to supply her with clothes. On the morning of the proposed marriage, Cradock's family turned up and actually prevented its taking place. Marsh's looks so sober nowadays it is hard to believe that it was the scene of such romantic and dramatic events.

In January 1872, Cradock became very ill and he died the following April. The Keeper's job was now vacant after thirty years. The Governors met and what an impressive turn out there was. Most of them had never bothered to appear at the Governor's Annual Visitations in October. But now Henry Monahan the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, the Lord Chief Baron, The Archbishop of Dublin, the Dean of St. Patrick's and the Provost of Trinity College all appeared. There were nine applicants, eight clergymen and Dr. Robert Travers now Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in Trinity College and Assistant Librarian of Marsh's Library for over thirty years. The Rev. William Maturin, Vicar of All Saints, was appointed.

Why did Robert Travers not get the Keeper's job? He had worked in the Library for thirty years, he was a professor in Trinity College, he had contributed extensively to distinguished literary journals, he was a splendid scholar and his work on the Catalogues, both in handwriting and learning, was obvious to every person entering the Library.

We must, I think, go back to the year 1864. In that year one of the most scandalous and sensational libel actions began in Dublin. Mary Josephine Travers, the daughter of Dr. Robert Travers, took an action against Sir William and Lady Wilde. While ostensibly it was a libel action, it was really an action for assault by Sir William on Mary Josephine.

When Mary Josephine was nineteen years old her mother had taken her to Sir William for advice, since apparently Mary Josephine was threatened with deafness. Mary Josephine became a patient of Sir William's and unfortunately for him he became completely infatuated with her. He took her to exhibitions, gave her money and presents, and she was a frequent visitor in his house. After some years Sir William got tired of Mary Josephine and

tried to get rid of her. But Mary Josephine was not to be put off so easily. She began a campaign to annoy both Sir William and Lady Wilde, or Speranza, the name by which she was generally known. Mary Josephine wrote scurrilous letters to the papers, even announcing her death, and dropping the notices in letter boxes. She hired newsboys to display offensive placards outside the Metropolitan Hall in Abbey Street shortly before Sir William was due to give a most important lecture. Finally after another outrageous episode, she provoked Speranza into writing a letter of protest to Robert Travers. It was a most arrogant letter. Speranza accused Mary Josephine of consorting with newsboys, having an intrigue with Sir William, and trying to extort money from them.

Mary Josephine found Lady Wilde's letter in her father's bedroom. She went to a solicitor and sued for libel.

Sir William Wilde was at the height of his fame. He was the Queen's physician in Ireland. He had been knighted the previous January at a splendid ceremony in Dublin Castle. There was therefore intense excitement in Dublin when the trial began. The applications for admission tickets to the court were so great in number that the police had to take special precautions against overcrowding.

Mary Josephine and Speranza gave evidence. The Chief Justice Henry Monahan, in his summing up, ridiculed Mary Josephine's evidence and her account of the supposed assault. But Mary Josephine did win the libel action. The jury, however, showed what they thought of her by awarding her one farthing's damages. The case ruined Sir William Wilde. His health deteriorated and he died a few years later. Lady Wilde went to live in London, and Mary Josephine took an action against some of the newspapers for their comments on the case, which she lost. Her father Dr. Robert Travers was not promoted to the Keeper's job in Marsh's Library which he had so patiently waited for.

I have no definite evidence that this was the reason why he did not get the position, but I would remind you that the Chief Justice Henry Monahan was a Governor of the Library and I have no doubt that at the height of the Victorian era the episcopal and clerical Governors of the Library would not promote a man who was so clearly associated with this scandal.

It was not alone a human tragedy. Robert Travers had, from the time he was appointed Assistant Librarian in 1841, collected books which fitted in with the collections in the Library and which would have made a really splendid addition to it. After William Maturin's appointment

Travers began sending the most important books in his collection to his friends in Chethem's Library in Manchester, and sadly Marsh's lost a valuable addition.

Eleven years later when the Keeper William Maturin died, the Rev. George Stokes was appointed. It is not possible to say whether Robert Travers applied for the job a second time. Before Dr. Stokes' appointment there had been a discussion in Parliament about the vacancy in the Library and the Freeman's Journal<sup>47</sup> sent a reporter up to Marsh's. The reporter wrote 'that the door into the Library was opened by the assistant librarian Dr. Robert Travers and he was a gentleman whose form is literally bowed with the weight of years'. Robert Travers first came to Marsh's Library when he was a young student in Trinity College and had been rejected by the girl he loved. He himself wrote: 'I neglected my studies and took refuge in the seclusion of this library'. From the time of his appointment as Assistant Librarian in 1841 he never missed an Annual Visitation in the Library. His exquisite handwriting covers a period of 47 years, but in fact he had been coming into Marsh's for sixty-one years. He died on 28th March 1888.

Dr. George Stokes who succeeded William Maturin was professor of Ecclesiastical History in Trinity College. He wrote a short biography<sup>6</sup> of Archbishop Marsh and the Library<sup>48</sup>, but is of course very well known because of his writings on the early Irish church. Dr. Stokes was succeeded by Rev. Newport John Davis White, Assistant Lecturer in Divinity and Hebrew in Trinity College. He in turn was succeeded by his nephew, Newport Benjamin White. The White family probably contributed more to Marsh's than any other Librarians since the first Librarian, Dr. Elias Bouhereau. They wrote the Catalogues of the English Books, French Books and edited the Manuscript Catalogue. They also wrote biographies of Archbishop Marsh and Dr. Bouhereau and a short history of the Library. In 1958 the Governors appointed as Assistant Librarian the first woman to Marsh's, Miss Mary Pollard, and Dr. R. B. McDowell as Keeper. The present Keeper is that well known and very distinguished Irish historian, Dr. J. G. Simms and the Assistant Librarian is Rev. C. R. J. Bradley, the Dean's Vicar and Administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Finally, I would like to return to the first Librarian of Marsh's Library, the Huguenot refugee Dr. Elias Bouhereau who had to flee with his family from France because of his religious beliefs, who managed to bring his book collection with him, and who, I think, found peace in this beautiful Irish Library. It is nice to think that the first superb catalogue which he compiled with such care and

scholarhsip is used by us almost every day to find the books where he and Archbishop Marsh placed them almost three hundred years ago.

## NOTES

<sup>38</sup> Newport J. D. White, *Four Good Men*. Dublin: Hodges Figgis, 1927, pp. 56-97.

<sup>39</sup> Visitation Accounts, Marsh's Library, 1707-1924.

<sup>41</sup> Newport J. D. White, *An Account of Archbishop Marsh's Library*, Dublin. Dublin: Hodges, Figgis, 1926, p. 19.

<sup>42</sup> *The Autobiography of William Carleton*, London: McGibbon & Kee, 1968, pp. 189-190.

<sup>43</sup> "Catalogue of Books, the duplicate copies of the public library, Dublin. Which are to be sold by auction on Wednesday, May 8th, 1833, by Charles Sharpe", Dublin: Richard Davis Webb, 1833.

<sup>44</sup> "Report on the Public Libraries 1849-50, with proceedings of the Select Committee, Minutes of Evidence", 2 vols. London: 1849-50, p. 16.

<sup>45</sup> All the information concerning the proposed removal, and concerning Cradock's behavior are contained in Robert Travers letters to Thomas Jones, in Chethem's Library, Manchester from 1848-75. Xerox copies in Marsh's library, (220 letters).

<sup>46</sup> T. G. Wilson, *Victorian Doctor*, New York: L. B. Fischer, 1946. Terence de Vere White, *The Parents of Oscar Wilde*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1967. "Irish Times", Reports of the trial 14th December 1864 on National Library Microfilm.

<sup>47</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 7th September, 1887.

<sup>48</sup> George Thomas Stokes, *Some Worthies of the Irish Church*, London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1900, edited by Hugh Jackson Lawlor. (Narcissus Marsh, *Marsh's Library, its history and contents*, pp. 5-141.)

## FONDREN'S REFERENCE LIBRARIANS

You don't know where to find a certain book. Perhaps you're having trouble with LIBRIS. You might need to borrow a pen, or perhaps you want to know if Fondren Library subscribes to a particular publication. When you ask for help, ask a reference librarian. Many people might think that this is the extent of the involvement that the reference librarians have with the users of Fondren's services. These dedicated people, however, do much more for the Library.

The reference library staff is part of Fondren's Reader Services Division, headed by Bill Robnett. Seven people currently work as reference librarians. Their three primary responsibilities are reference work, collection development and database searches. Consequently these people work very closely with both faculty and students.

Robnett says, "We are librarians who work with the faculty members regarding what should be in the collection. We also answer questions, help compile bibliographies, refer to other libraries. We help with information and referral."

The academic backgrounds of the reference librarians are quite varied. They all come in with a variety of first degrees, ranging from biology to French to Music. The one degree that they all share is the MLS, a Master of Library Science, attained by participating in a one-to-two-year American Library Association accredited master's program. "It is pretty eclectic," Robnett says of the background of his staff.

Communication between faculty, students, and the reference librarians requires a very positive force in our relationships. Some of them have a great deal of communication with faculty and students. Three in particular are Peggy Shaw, who oversees the Maconda and Ralph O'Connor Center for Business Information, and Jet Prendeville and Sandy Wenner, who work in the Alice Pratt Brown Library-Art, Architecture, Music. These two areas are not independent from the library, but they are, in effect, separate entities.

The people Shaw serves are mainly the Jones Graduate School of Administration's students and faculty. Her three primary activities are reference, collection development and administration. "Reference work includes finding company information and statistics, and helping people find resources we don't have at the Jones School. As far as collection goes, I work in two areas: business, which

includes accounting, management, entrepreneurship and marketing; and economics. Managing of the Information Center includes managing personnel, both professional and student, overseeing the budget, writing an annual report, and offering classes on how to find information."

Although Shaw spends most of her time in the Business Information Center in Herring Hall, she isn't isolated from Fondren. Like all the reference librarians, she spends time each day behind the reference desk in the lobby. She has noticed that many people don't want to come to the desk when they need help, perhaps because they feel that they should be able to solve a problem by themselves. She says that "it's much easier to go up to the reference librarian in the beginning of a project and say 'maybe I do need some help.' We really can cut people's time and frustration."

Besides the BIC, another recent addition to Fondren is the Brown Library, opened in March 1986. Prendeville and Wenner alternate primary supervisory responsibilities. Prendeville sees her main duty as training students to perform many of the circulation functions and other library procedures. "But not reference work," she qualifies. "Most of the student employees are not art/music people, so I want reference questions to be handled by the reference librarians." Developing the reference collection and purchasing art and architecture materials for the Brown Library are her other duties.

"We have a very healthy budget for collection development," she says, "and spend a lot of time with the faculty in this area. For example, the History of Art Department now has an Oriental art specialist, Richard Wilson; the Library was awarded \$3000 start-up monies for this area. Professor Wilson and I are working to improve the oriental art collection."

Figures show that the Brown Library is well stocked: 16,950 recordings, 451,800 art and architecture monographs and journals, 16,400 scores, 11,500 music monographs and journals, and an extensive exhibition catalogue collection. Prendeville believes that the entire collection is a healthy one. The Brown Library has a solid foundation. The holdings of American and European Art History from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries have been increased.

Wenner, who has been with Fondren for almost two years, agrees. "For being as young as it is, it is doing pretty

well", she says.

She also works extensively with collection development for the Brown Library. She oversees the purchase of recordings, scores and monographs, as well as new equipment.

"I think we have a good reference staff," Wenner says. "We are varied enough so that we can handle just about anything."

This variety is typified by Sara Lowman, whose BA is in Biology and Russian Studies, but who now oversees the "applied sciences," including civil and mechanical engineering, environmental and space sciences, and mathematics and physics. "The transition" from her major to her area of concentration "was fairly easy," she says.

"Rice is a good place to work," she says. "It is fun, and the students seem to like what they are doing. I work mainly with the faculty during the day and with students at night. The students are usually more easily satisfied, mainly because they generally have less specific requests."

Lowman is the on-line coordinator for the reference department, responsible for evaluating and billing for services such as BRS/After Dark and Data-Times, a full text newspaper data base. Keeping up with the various on-line services is challenging because of the rapid changes in technology and the increased number of data bases. She also spends time on collection development, which she says can "get to be very labor intensive."

For her areas, she keeps track of what is being published in three different "profiles:" German, non-German European, and American. "We keep track of what types of books the faculty is interested in."

Robnett points out that, because of the recently declining value of the dollar, Rice has not been able to purchase as many foreign publications as in the past, especially Dutch and German items. "We have had some success in getting what the faculty has wanted," he says. "Luckily, we do not have a big demand for Japanese material."

Although he is the head of the Reader Services Division, Robnett still manages to do reference work, often working on nights and weekends. "I like it," he says. "It gets kind of chaotic at times, but I would not want to be just an administrator."

Robnett points out that the role of reference librarians is changing. "First, computer literacy is becoming more

and more important," he says. "Also, we are having to be more proactive than reactive; we have to be right up front with new developments. Finally, the field is requiring more of an academic background. We have to be both specialists and generalists; for that reason, the specialist subject degree is important."

Tony Schwartz, who handles the social sciences, offers a fresh perspective of reference work. He became a reference librarian only recently, when he joined Rice in early 1987. His previous experience, however, has prepared him well: it includes collection development at the University of North Iowa, teaching at the University of Alabama and research consulting work with the State Department. He has been learning his new job basically by tackling whatever projects come his way.

"I am out at the reference desk quite a bit," he says. "It is a good approach because you do get a lot of questions. You also get to work with all the other librarians. I used to wonder what they do the rest of the day. I don't wonder any more!"

Like the other reference librarians, Schwartz enjoys working at Rice. "I am very impressed with Fondren, and with the University, in general," he says. "I really am delighted to be at Rice. It is a research institute and a university with a national reputation."

A similarly positive opinion of Rice is expressed by Sandy Edwards who has been working in the reference department of the Fondren for nearly two years. The enthusiastic participation of faculty members, a number of whom are "very much interested in the library" makes Edwards' job of developing the languages and literature portions of the collection very pleasant.

Edward's educational background is well suited to her work in Fondren. She graduated with a BA in French from Grinnell College and completed both an MA in French and an MLS at the University of Missouri before coming to Rice. She handles funds for the purchase of books in a number of major categories including English, German, French and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, Russian, linguistics and the classics. She is also responsible for the purchase of significant publications (mostly in translation) in languages not currently of major research interest at Rice.

One of the favorite aspects of her job is the purchase of items for the Friends of Fondren Fiction Collection that

occupies a comfortable corner of the main lobby across from the circulation desk. Edwards encourages requests for books and, in fact, already handles many that originate in the English department. Should you meet her behind the reference desk in the main lobby you may well want to ask about a favorite title or a new book of interest that you'd like to see on the shelves of the Fondren Library.

New last semester, Carolyn Henebry not only develops the collection for anthropology, psychology, education, and physical education, she is also the coordinator for bibliographic instruction. One of her duties includes instructing students in the JONES 206 Library Research Techniques class. She arranges the class to include the other reference librarians as instructors in the various areas of information materials available at Fondren.

Henebry brings with her the experience of working for the Reference Department at the University of Texas in Dallas. She is well qualified for the Library Techniques course, as well as for her areas of collection development, since she received her bachelor's degree in education and her master's degree in Guidance and Counselling.

Joining Fondren in the fall allowed Henebry the opportunity to become accustomed to Rice along with the freshman class. She enjoys working with the students, especially the interaction with the sophomores and freshmen. She appreciates Rice's small and close student body. The comfortable atmosphere at Fondren is a high mark for Henebry.

One element which will further improve Fondren's reputation is the renovation. This plan calls for moving the technical staff offices to the basement. Much of Summer 1987 was spent clearing the basement of unwanted exchange material and gift collections in anticipation of the move. One woman very involved in this cleanup was Kathy Madole, a member of the Reader Services staff but not a degreeed librarian.

"As a reference/collection development assistant my position is multi-faceted," she says. "I take care of the gift books, including acknowledgement and dispersal. I occasionally process orders sent in by professors, and do a lot of administrative work for the reference librarians. I am the keeper of the source book - a collection of loose-leaf notebooks containing clips from all campus publications concerning scholarly interests and activities of the faculty. I

work at the reference desk an hour every day and on occasion fill in at the circulation desk in the Brown Library. When the Woodson Research Center is short-staffed I help there also. The most interesting aspect of my job is the unpredictable. I never know what I might be asked to do and I enjoy the challenge tremendously. The fun part is having the opportunity to work with a great bunch of people."

The work Madole does is essential to the library and the reference staff. "A lot of the tasks I perform can be tedious and time consuming," she says, "but it has to get done."

None of the people on the reference staff meets the stereotypical image most people have of reference librarians: ladies with their hair in buns and telling students to keep quiet. On the contrary, the staff is made up of active, dynamic people with a variety of backgrounds and skills, each one dedicated to serving the Rice community.

"We always seek ways to make ourselves visible," says Hunter of the people in his profession. "That is our mission: to be a part of the academic pursuit of knowledge."

*Information for this article was contributed by the reference librarians, Irving Cutter IV, Joey Pellarin and Signy Schou.*

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## THE FONDREN LIBRARY BUILDING HOURS

SUMMER HOURS      May 4, 1988 -

Monday - Friday	7:45 a.m. - 8:00
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00
Sunday	CL
Closed May 28 - May 30 for Memorial Day	



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Friends of Fondren Library is open to all segments of the Community. It is not an alumni organization. Membership contributions are as follows:

Donor .....	\$25
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